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'SCHOOL ENROLMENTS DOWN DUE TO DECLINE IN CHILD POPULATION'

The overall enrolment in schools will have declined by more than 14% by 2025, a new study by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has projected. From 2011 to 2025, the enrolment of boys and girls will decrease by 13.28% and 15.54%, respectively. The enrolment of SC students will remain unchanged for the next 5-10 years, while that of ST students will face stagnation after 2023-24, the study has projected

Pitbulls attack 7-year-old boy, leave him critical; owner faces arrest

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

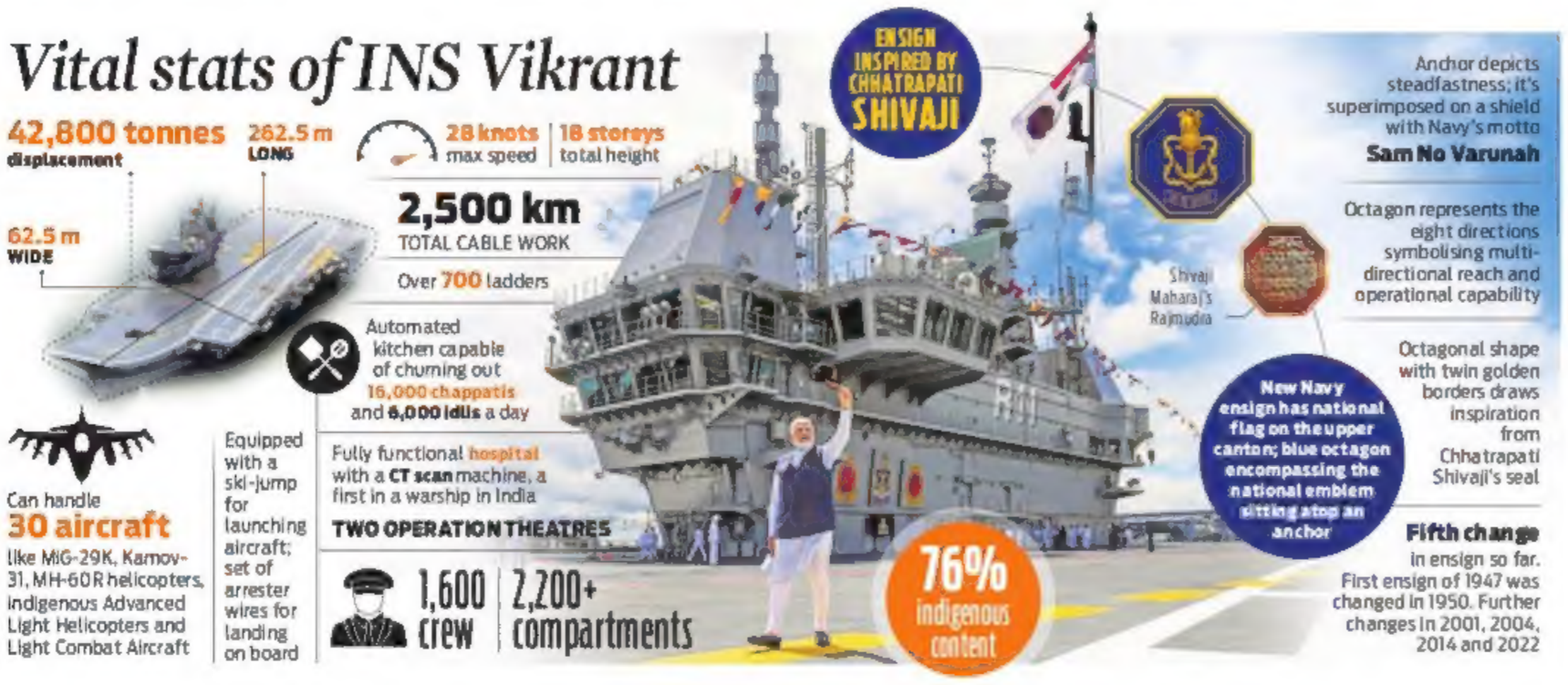
TWO pitbulls mauled a seven-year-old boy who returned home from school, leaving his face disfigured and with 58 stitches, in RKM Layout near KR Puram, Old Madras Road.

A Lithin, son of M Arun and Venilla, and a Class 2 student, was attacked by the two pitbulls last Monday afternoon. On finding the dogs roaming free on the ground floor, Arun called the dog owner K Ranjith, to take the dogs in. This led to an argument during which Ranjith is alleged to have provoked the dogs to attack the child.

Arun filed a complaint against Ranjith, 26, and Anil Kumar, the building owner. Ranjith lives on the first floor, while Arun's family resides on the ground floor.

Around seven months ago, the same dogs had attacked the boy and his mother. The building owner had warned the tenant not to unleash the dogs when children were playing.

"The right side of my son's face has been disfigured due to the bites of the dogs, and he needed 58 stitches. He is unable to bear the pain, and his condition is critical. Ranjith requested us to withdraw the complaint, and assured us that he would bear all the medical expenses. But I refused his favour. We moved to the house last December, and Ranjith's family had moved in one month earlier. If the owner had informed us about the dogs, we would have not taken the house. After the earlier attack, the owner did not take any measures to ensure that the other tenants were safe. Ranjith had assured us that he would sell the dogs but has not kept his word. Earlier there were three pitbulls, of which one was sold," said Arun, who works with a battery manufacturing firm. P3


Vital stats of INS Vikrant
42,800 tonnes
displacement
262.5 m
LONG
62.5 m
WIDE
28 knots
max speed
18 storeys
total height
2,500 km
TOTAL CABLE WORK
Over 700 ladders
Automated kitchen capable of churning out 16,000 chappatis and 6,000 idlis a day
Fully functional hospital with a CT scan machine, a first in a warship in India
TWO OPERATION THEATRES
Equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft; set of arrester wires for landing on board
Can handle
30 aircraft
like MiG-29K, Kamov-31, MH-60R helicopters, indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters and Light Combat Aircraft
1,600 crew
2,200+ compartments
76% indigenous content
ENSIGN INSPIRED BY CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI
Anchor depicts steadfastness; it's superimposed on a shield with Navy's motto Sam No Varunah
Octagon represents the eight directions symbolising multi-directional reach and operational capability
Shivaji Maharaj's Rajmudra
Octagonal shape with twin golden borders draws inspiration from Chhatrapati Shivaji's seal
New Navy ensign has national flag on the upper canton; blue octagon encompassing the national emblem sitting atop an anchor
Fifth change
in ensign so far. First ensign of 1947 was changed in 1950. Further changes in 2001, 2004, 2014 and 2022

Vikrant sets India sail towards developed nation: PM

MAYANK SINGH AND MANOJ VISWANATHAN @Kochi

WITH Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday commissioning the country's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant here, India became only the sixth country in the world capable of building a warship larger than 40,000 tonnes.

"It's not just a warship; it's the outcome of 21st century India's work and determination," Modi said. "Vikrant is the manifestation of the dreams of the freedom fighters who envisioned a capable and strong India," he added.

Vikrant is also a symbol of India's talent and technology. "By fulfilling India's dream of building an indigenous aircraft carrier, our engineers and scientists have demonstrated the strength of the nation... Vikrant marks a crucial step in our march towards becoming a developed nation," the PM said.

Putting Vikrant in context amid Chinese aggression in the South China Sea, Modi said both the Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean are major defence priorities for the country. "That is why we are working in every direction, from increasing the budget for the Navy to increasing its capability." He added that a strong India will pave the way for a peaceful and safe world.

Vikrant will be amalgamated with its aviation assets by August 2023, after which it will be fully operational. The PM also unveiled a new Naval ensign that is inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's octagonal seal, saying it has taken off a burden of the India's slavery.

"The twin octagonal borders draw their inspiration from Shivaji Maharaj Rajmudra or the Seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, one of the kings with a visionary maritime outlook, who built a credible Naval Fleet that earned grudging admiration from European Navies operating in the region at the time," the Navy said. The earlier fouled anchor, which is associated with colonial legacy, has been replaced with a clear anchor in the new ensign.

PM: India's growth engine running at full capacity

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that every sector related to the growth engine of the country is running at full capacity as the the policies and decisions made by his government during Covid-19 pandemic played a key role in the country's development and the progress are reflected in the recent GDP figures.

He was addressing a mammoth gathering of more than one lakh people after dedicating and laying foundation of mechanisation and industrialisation projects worth around Rs 3,800 crore in Mangaluru.

"Last year, despite so many global disruptions, India's exports were worth a total of $670 billion (Rs 50 lakh crore). Despite several challenges, India made a new record of merchandise export of $418 billion (Rs 31 lakh crore)," he said. P4

After 2 months in jail, Setalvad gets interim bail

SC relief till Gujarat HC decides on plea for regular bail in forgery case tied to 2002 riots

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to activist Teesta Setalvad, who has spent over two months in jail after being charged with forgery and fabricating records in connection with the 2002 riots cases.

The bail was granted a day after the SC took a serious view of the delayed listing of the activist's regular bail plea in the Gujarat High Court. The SC relief is till the high court decides her bail prayer. Setalvad has to surrender her passport and will be bound by the conditions set by the trial court, the bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and judges S R Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia said.

Following a request by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Setalvad, the bench directed the trial court not to insist on local security for her release on interim bail. She should be released on submission of cash security, the SC order said.

Setalvad was arrested on June 25 by the Gujarat ATS, a day after the SC dismissed a plea by Zakia Jafri—the widow of Congress MP Ehsan Jafri who was killed in the 2002 riots— for a probe into larger conspiracy behind the incident. A criminal case was registered against Setalvad and former police officers Sanjiv Bhatt and R B Sreekumar for allegedly fabricating records to implicate authorities including the then the state government officials.

While granting her bail, the top court noted that the allegations pertained to the period of 2002 and the woman petitioner had already undergone custodial interrogation for seven days. "It is made clear that relief has been granted in a peculiar case and that she happens to be a lady. This shall not be used by other accused as and when the occasion arises," the court said in its order.

The SC relief came after Setalvad challenged the order of City Civil and Sessions Court, Ahmedabad rejecting her bail and the Gujarat HC's decision to list her bail plea only on September 19.

Objecting her bail plea, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "Your lordship has seen the nature of the conspiracy. It's not ending with the petitioner. It's starting with her. These are powerful people. This has been going on since 2002. Maligning campaigns have to be stopped. There is not some misunderstanding but a calculated conspiracy to achieve a particular goal."

Murugha Mutt seer sent to 4-day police custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chitradurga

MURUGHA Mutt pontiff Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, who is facing charges in a case filed under the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, was remanded in four-day police custody on Friday in Chitradurga.

Pontiff Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru being taken for health check up, in Chitradurga on Friday | EXPRESS

The Second Additional District Judge B K Komala allowed the seer's custody to the police to question the accused after hearing arguments by Special Public Prosecutor K B Nagaveni. The court directed the investigating officer to produce the pontiff before the court on September 5 at 11 AM.

High drama prevailed since Thursday night when the seer was arrested from the mutt premises. He was admitted to the district hospital after he complained of chest pain, hypotension and variation in sugar levels, after which a series of treatments was started at the ICU of the district hospital.

As the doctors of the district hospital were inconclusive on the type of treatment to be given to the pontiff, they decided to summon cardiac specialists Dr Srinivas and Dr Mallesh from Davangere, who conducted tests and found variations, after which advanced treatment was suggested.

The jail superintendent submitted a report to the court, seeking permission to shift the seer to a hospital with better facilities. The court then issued directions to the police to present the pontiff before it, and heard all the pleas, after which the application for police custody was allowed.

CONTINUED ON: P4

CM: Police have free hand to probe case

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said the police have been given a free hand to investigate the case. "It is inappropriate to comment at this time when the probe is underway," he said.

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